

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of August 26, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends the specification and abstract, pursuant to our discussion with the Examiner on November 30, 2004. No new matter is added to the specification and abstract. In addition, Applicant amends claims 1, 5-7, 11-14, 17, 19-21, 24, 26-27 and 30, where claims 1, 5-7 and 11-32 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2 allegedly because of insufficient antecedent basis; rejected claims 13-14, 18-21 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,785); rejected claims 1, 5-7, 11-12, 27, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Higginbotham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,575) in view of Kim; rejected claims 15-17, 22-24 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Higginbotham et al. in view of Kim and Jahagirdar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,286). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With respect to the rejection of claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2, Applicant respectfully submits that the terms “the plurality of signal electrode lines” in claim 19 and “the plurality of scan electrode lines” in claim 26 have proper antecedent basis. Lines 11-13 of claim 13, from which claim 19 depends, recite “a plurality of signal electrode lines.” Also, lines 11-13 of claim 20, from which claim 26 depends, recite “a plurality of scan electrode lines.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

The rejection of claims 13-14, 18-21 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kim and the rejection of claims 15-17 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Higginbotham et al. in view of Kim and Jahagirdar et al. are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 13 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 13 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “each of the second scan lines electrically connected to a

respective one of the first scan lines....” Kim fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 and claims 14 and 18-19, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references. In addition, since Higginbotham et al. and Jahagirdar et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of Kim, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-17 are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 20 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 20 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “each of the second signal lines electrically connected to a respective one of the first signal lines....” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20, as well as dependent claims 21 and 25-26 are allowable over the cited references. In addition, since Higginbotham et al. and Jahagirdar et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of Kim, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22-24, which variously depend from claim 20, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 1, 5-7, 11-12, 27, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Higginbotham et al. in view of Kim and claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Higginbotham et al. in view of Kim and Jahagirdar et al. are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “wherein each of the ‘n’ second signal lines is electrically connected to a respective one of the ‘n’ first signal lines....” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 5 and 6, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 7 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 7 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “wherein each of the ‘n’ second scan lines is electrically connected to a respective one of the ‘n’ first scan lines....” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 and claims 11-12, which depends therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

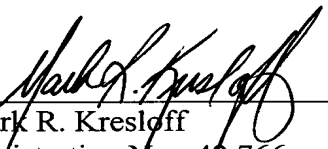
Claim 27 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 27 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein each of the 'n' second signal electrodes is electrically connected to a respective one of the 'n' first signal lines...." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 27 and claims 31-32, which depends therefrom, are allowable over the cited references. In addition, since Higginbotham et al. and Jahagirdar et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of Kim, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 28-30 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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